

Allies Reject Secret German Peace Offer

Tempting Bait Reported Held Out to France and Italy

Unrest Grows in Teuton Nations

People Want to Quit—Assail Government's Course

By Arthur S. Draper

(Tribune Cable Service)

LONDON, March 18.—All possibility of peace this spring—and many considered it almost a probability—has vanished. Though the last Versailles conference decided for war, its famous pronouncement did not block the peace channels of secret diplomacy. Germany, flushed with success in the East, thought she might avoid military operations in the West by making what she considered a "magnanimous" offer to the Entente. That offer has failed to satisfy her enemies, and now military maneuvers must grow in violence until the armies are locked in another death grapple.

The correspondent evidently refers to a cable message he sent March 16 saying that Germany had offered peace terms to Belgium, France, Serbia and Italy, and that one report stated the enemy had offered to guarantee France's loans to Russia, and Austria had offered concessions to Italy.

Russia, militarily impotent, economically demoralized, officially bankrupt, but potentially powerful, is the centre of all negotiations. Permitted a free hand for her mailed fist there, Germany is willing to forswear all claims elsewhere, and even make handsome financial guarantees to Russia's creditors, especially France. Tempting as the bait might be, it failed to attract the wary Allies. Hungry as they are for peace, and disappointed as they are in Russia, they refused to accept a compromise peace which might bring a temporary settlement.

High Moral Courage Required by Rejection

It required moral courage of a high order to turn down the offer. It will be some time before the world knows the forces which were brought to bear by the opportunists and the part played by the idealists. There will be further peace offers this year.

I think this year will see the end of the fighting. That view is supported by many Englishmen, Frenchmen, Italians and Russians. Everything depends on the course of events in the Far East. The Central Powers are in more need of peace this year than at any time since the fall of 1916. It is not because their economic situation

Editors Plead With Soviets to Avert Shame

Lansing Approves Message Sent by Foreign Language Newspapers

The American Association of Foreign Language Newspapers, as the representative of 10,000,000 readers, sent a cable message yesterday to the Russian Soviets urging them "not to put the shame of defeat on Russia and her people in America. The message was sent first to President Wilson for approval, its senders explaining that they would take no action if he objected. Secretary Lansing of the State Department replied by telegram that there was no objection to sending the dispatch. The cablegram follows:

"The Russian Soviet, Moscow, Russia:—Seven hundred and thirty-four American newspapers published in thirty-three different foreign languages stand as one behind the message of the President of the United States of America has sent your body. These newspapers have a combined circulation of about ten million copies per issue and reach all races and peoples who have come to this glorious Republic to enjoy religious and political freedom and liberty, regardless of race or creed.

"We beseech you not to deal with autocratic governments whose sole purpose is to destroy civilizations as we know it. The readers of our papers hold these principles of liberty to be their greatest blessing and to secure them have come to the United States from the different nations now devastated by these autocrats for selfish motives of royalty and to uphold the principle of self-determination. Many of these readers come from various parts of Russia. They love their mother country and pray to you, and through you to their kinsmen, not to put the shame of defeat on themselves and their people.

"We ask you in the names of millions of people who depend on the news of our paper to stand with us for the honor of our adopted country and our allies, of which your nation is one, in defeating the greatest enemies of civilization in the history of the world. We pray for your success and assure you of our aid in bringing about a glorious victory at arms. At your back stand the American nation stands as a whole wall. With the termination of an honorable and lasting peace, we pledge you our assistance in building up again your unhappy nation. Do not make the mistake of accepting a peace that will destroy your country, your homes and your people."

has grown desperate or that the military reserves are exhausted or that their financial position is worse. The Central Powers are beginning to suffer from the same sickness which seized prostrated Russia.

From Copenhagen comes word of another general strike movement developing at Budapest. The militarists will undoubtedly crush it, but every fresh rising increases the amount of unrest. At Essen, the centre of the Krupp industries, the Socialists held a big peace meeting last Sunday, two Reichstag Deputies addressing the meeting and resolutions demanding a democratic peace being adopted unanimously.

Articles in the "Vorwaerts" and the "Vossische Zeitung" both question the wisdom of Germany's course in Russia. The importance of these incidents should not be overemphasized, but they are straws showing the way the wind is blowing. The peoples of the Central Powers are tired of the war and they want to quit, but cannot.

Allied Peoples Tired, But Never Will Quit

The Allied peoples are also tired, but they will not quit. America's so-called idealism leaves certain Allied statesmen cold. The scheme for a league of nations, however, will grow, and never faster than when military progress is slowest. Its opponents' plan is now completely defensive and their defence is weakened by the fact they have no alternative to offer.

"The Manchester Guardian," the pacifist and anti-government organ, says: "No accident of military success should determine the fate of people. That should be decided on the grounds Wilson has put it on, of existing alliances and known desires, and the prime endeavor of the council would be to adjust these two requirements. Such an adjustment may with the best will in the world be difficult enough in some cases, but the preliminary condition of any success is the repudiation of militarism, and that means the right of conquest by the sword."

"In principle this country has made such repudiation, for it has declared its intention of submitting to an international council the future of the territories it has occupied. Will Germany make any such undertaking with regard to the provinces of Russia?"

"If so, there could be no difficulty in arranging a peace conference. The first principle of a league of nations would be admitted, and it would be for the peace conference itself to follow it up into detail."

However, the paper doesn't believe Germany is prepared as yet to do anything more than lip service to such a principle, but as "equal economic opportunity" is the greatest of her needs, "The Guardian" thinks we must let the enemy know that "if they desire not only peace, but the old commercial status and the right to free intercourse in the world's markets, they must take the world's terms, which are now repudiation of military annexations in favor of settlement by discussion in an international league."

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Germans Continue Russian Advance; Kharkov Menaced

Towns of Bakhmach and Konotop, Southwest of Moscow, Captured

Grain Centre Seized

Berlin Announces Occupation of Nikolayev, Northwest of Odessa

LONDON, March 18.—German troops have occupied Bakhmach and Konotop (in the province of Tchernigov, about 350 miles southwest of Moscow), but were forced to retire from Briansk (in the province of Orel, 200 miles southwest of Moscow) toward the main base, according to an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Moscow, dated Saturday. Austro-German troops are moving on Voroshilov and Kharkov (capital of the Ukraine) of the same name and about 400 miles south of Moscow).

Orders have been given to evacuate Kharkov. Maria Spiridonova, Bolshevik leader, in an appeal to the peasants, declared that ratification of the German peace means that they will lose their land and freedom, according to a Petrograd dispatch. An official announcement from Berlin confirms the German occupation of Nikolayev, the Black Sea grain centre, which lies about seventy miles north-east of Odessa; the capture was reported yesterday in a press dispatch from Petrograd.

Francis and Allied Envoys From Russia Are Due in Corea

(By The Associated Press) TOKIO, March 18.—The American Ambassador to Russia, David R. Francis; the Japanese Ambassador, Viscount Uchida, and the diplomatic representatives of Great Britain and France were expected to arrive at Seoul to-day, according to advices from the Korean capital. They are on their way to Japan.

The Workmen's and Soldiers' Association has been making efforts to form a separate Siberian republic, according to a special dispatch from Irkutsk. A meeting for this purpose was ordered dissolved, and Red Guards arrested those who refused to obey the order, including the chairman.

The American Ambassador and the diplomatic representatives of the Entente powers left Petrograd late in February, going to Vologda. The safe arrival there of Mr. Francis was reported on February 28. About two weeks ago a report was current that Ambassador Francis and the Japanese Ambassador were being held in Vologda, but this report was not credited to Washington.

Friendship With Berlin 'Imperilled' If Holland Yields

AMSTERDAM, March 18.—The Berlin correspondent of the "Handelsblad" says the German standpoint is that no Dutch ship should be allowed to leave Holland for America unless a corresponding Dutch ship is returned to a Dutch port from abroad and that Dutch shipping now in Holland must remain outside the reach of the Entente.

If Holland yields on these points, the correspondent adds, German interests would be so strongly assailed that friendly relations between Germany and Holland would be greatly imperilled.

Discussing the Dutch shipping question, the correspondent says: "We shall have to acquiesce, but such rough misuse of power will not be forgotten by our people."

In an article vehemently denouncing the Allies the "Handelsblad" says: "We cannot think what our government will do. Will it publish a protest refusing to give its approval to a protest and leave the matter as it is or will it make the best of a bad job and make an exchange for what will be taken away? If it is not exchanged, will it request the ministers of these practical powers to pack their trunks and depart? We should not lose much thereby. We do not know what the government will do, and would like to advise it. At such a moment it is well to leave to the government's discretion to

take that decision which is least harmful to the country and the people." In the same article, however, the "Handelsblad" admits that it is unfortunately true that Holland is the only northern neutral which has done nothing to combat German submarine methods. It attributes the country's present position to the spirit which has dictated such an attitude.

The "Telegraf," which is pro-Allies, advocates the acceptance of the offer of the Entente governments, adding: "Holland's existence as a free and independent nation and the possession of its colonies are at stake. By choosing the right path the government has it in its power to maintain the liberty of the nation or irrevocably deliver it to the mercy of Germany, which in its bid for world domination has long had anxious eyes on Holland. The Dutch nation will not permit itself to be delivered over to the German junkers."

THE HAGUE, March 16.—It is impossible for Holland to give an affirmative answer to the Entente's proposals concerning Dutch ships, says the "Nieuwe Courant," which is in no wise applicable here.

"It is an act of violence," it adds, "to which we are subjected by the rulers of the ocean, and nothing makes us so bitter as the attempt being made to base it on the so-called rule of international law—the antiquated and archaic law—which is in no wise applicable here."

The Bolshevik Ministers who resigned were M. Dzhibko and M. Kolantari. The Social Revolutionaries were M. Steinberg, M. Kalagoff, M. Karelin and M. Proshian. The latter announced their intention of declaring a "merciless war on imperialism."

M. Martoff, chief of the Menshevik faction, charged that the full treaty was not publicly known and declared that the indemnity demanded by Germany was 9,000,000,000 rubles (\$4,550,000,000) instead of the 3,000,000,000 rubles previously announced. He also charged that the treaty declares Petrograd a "free city."

"We are facing dissolution, not only from Germany, but from Japan," declared Martoff. Regarding the economic terms of the treaty, Martoff asserted that denationalization of Russian banks was a triumph for capitalistic Russia. He said the treaty provided for a division of Russia between Germany, Austria, Rumania, Japan, and other powers. He pleaded for rejection of the treaty and a union against all foes.

Leon Trotsky declared in an interview to-day that an agreement exists between Germany and Japan to "divide Russia on the basis of mutual interests." Trotsky further declared that the Allies' greatest error has been in "assisting Japanese plans for occupation of Siberia."

"America will be the first to regret the Allies' policy," he said.

U. S. Will Help Resist Japan, Russian View

(By The Associated Press) MOSCOW, Friday, March 15.—Commenting upon President Wilson's message to the All-Russian Soviet Congress, the "Izvestia," organ of the government, says the United States will help Russia and her hands to resist German and Japanese imperialism.

The United States in struggling for the Russian market is far less of a menace, it asserts, than Germany or Japan.

Pope Has Condemned Air Raids on Cities

ROME, March 16.—Explanation was given to-day at the office of the Papal Secretary of State of the report that Pope Benedict had written a letter to induce the belligerents to cease the air raids upon cities. Monsignor Cerretti, assistant Papal Secretary of State, said:

"The Holy Father has frequently condemned such acts by whomsoever committed, having at various times paved the way to an agreement on this subject, but both belligerents apparently have so far been unable to discover means for limiting bombardments to war zones. On one hand, the Austro-Germans have claimed that air raids were of direct military value, in that they lowered the morale in cities which were attacked. On the other hand, the Allies have claimed that air raids were of direct military value, in that they lowered the morale in cities which were attacked. On the other hand, the Austro-Germans have claimed that air raids were of direct military value, in that they lowered the morale in cities which were attacked."

Monsignor Cerretti stated that the holy father is daily engaged in studying means, if not ending air raids, at least limiting its horrors, but so far has not found arguments powerful enough to influence the belligerents to cease air raiding.

Barnes's "Arrest" a Deep Mystery As He and Accusers Keep Silence

Whether or not William Barnes, former Republican boss of New York State, was arrested early Sunday morning for remarks touching on and pertaining to the character of that estimable gentleman, Uncle Sam, will probably always remain a mystery, so far as testimony from principals in the affair is concerned.

These principals are three in number, Mr. Barnes, the alleged arrestee, and Colonel George H. Gale, U. S. A., retired, and Colonel Austin F. Prescott, now stationed at Camp Upton, the supposed arresters. Comment obtained from them yesterday was as follows: Mr. Barnes—"It is too ridiculous to discuss."

Colonel Gale—"The less said about it the better."

Colonel Prescott—"I don't want to discuss the matter."

Dillon Fears A New Crisis In Ireland

If Convention Fails, He Says, Momentous Struggle Will Ensnare

Declares Ministers Betrayed Redmond

Warns Sinn Feiners Against Rising, Urges United Demand

ENNISKILLEN, Ireland, Saturday, March 16.—"From the grave of John Redmond there is a great lesson to be learned by British statesmen," says John Dillon to-day, on making his first public appearance as chairman of the Irish Nationalist party. "Redmond faced misunderstandings and horrible calumny in his endeavor to conciliate the Irish and British people. Had the English ministers been honorable men and stood by him and imitated his statesmanship, Ireland to-day, instead of being an embarrassment to England, would be a source of strength and support."

"The English ministers were false to their honor and their pledges. They betrayed Redmond, while he was faithful and loyal, and are reaping the bitter harvest of their misdeeds."

Nationalists of Fermanagh and surrounding counties gathered in large numbers for the meeting. Addresses were presented by the Enniskillen Irish Council, the United Irish League and the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

To End Religious Strife

Mr. Dillon said he came to Enniskillen as chairman of a party whose ideal was to obliterate forever religious distinction and party conflict, which had been the curse of the Irish nation.

Discussing the Irish convention, Mr. Dillon said he had never pretended it was a body for self-determination. It was appointed solely to determine whether the Ulster question could be settled by agreement, he pointed out, and was fairly constituted and representative of a body as could have been selected. If the Ulster question could be settled by agreement, it would be a triumph for the Irish people, but the hour had come when the deliberations ought to be brought to a conclusion. If the convention failed to agree, he declared, the blame must rest on its members, or a certain section of them, because Ireland had given them fair play and ample time.

Predicts Momentous Struggle

"If the convention fails," continued Mr. Dillon, "the Irish question will assume within a week or two more its original shape than ever. I am of the opinion that Ireland is on the eve of one of the most momentous struggles in all her tragic history."

"Ireland is in a terrible condition at the present moment. She is invited by a numerous, clamorous body of young Irishmen to abandon her claim for home rule and set up a claim for an Irish republic. I do not think the people who advocate that view are as numerous as they imagine, but it must be recognized that they speak for a large section of the younger people."

"It is futile to discuss a possible Irish republic, and as the Sinn Fein leaders are not united or consistent as their aims, why should they not leave aside their dangerous bluff, coalesce with their fellow countrymen and make a united demand for that which is almost within our grasp?"

Mr. Dillon warned young enthusiasts against being led into another rising and giving the military an opportunity of shooting them down.

Belfast Sinn Feiners Attack Police; Many Sent to Hospitals

BELFAST, March 18.—In the rioting between a mob of Sinn Feiners and the police in the Nationalist quarter of Belfast early Sunday, hurley sticks, clubs and stones were the chief weapons, but some revolver shots were heard. The trouble lasted from midnight until 4 o'clock in the Belfast jail. Many sympathizers came along.

Professor Edward de Valera, member of Parliament for East Clare and a Sinn Fein leader, arrived in the city at midnight, accompanied by a bodyguard armed with hurley sticks, and others carrying blazing torches. The hall being closed, de Valera moved his meeting to a vacant lot 100 yards from the hall. He had talked ten minutes when the police declared their intention to break up the crowd, numbering about 2,500.

Hurley sticks were brought into play at once. The police drew their batons and charged at the double quick. A stiff fight followed, many men being sent up back alleys. It was not until the military were brought to the scene that order was again restored.

Call for Conference Termed Subterfuge

Robert Maisel, director of the American Alliance for Labor and Democracy, of which Samuel Gompers is president, yesterday denounced the declaration of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers' Union as camouflage to conceal pro-German sympathies.

"The declaration," said he, referring to the proclamation made public yesterday morning in favor of an inter-belligerent labor conference, "is the same old pro-German idea. Before the United States entered the war these people were pro-German. When we entered the war they became pacifists. When the American Alliance for Labor and Democracy issued the pacifist mask of the so-called People's Council the pro-Germans did not cease their activities."

"Since the invasion of defenceless Russia by Germany they have been seeking other names for their activities. They are now camouflage—some call it the 'Don't permit Japan to invade Russia'—others with approval of the radicals in the British labor movement in calling an inter-belligerent labor conference."

Oliver Plunket Made A Saint by the Pope

Irish Patriot, Executed Two Centuries Ago, Honored by Catholic Church

ROME, March 17.—St. Patrick's Day was celebrated at the Vatican by the reading by Pope Benedict of a decree for the beatification of Oliver Plunket. Monsignor O'Riordan, rector of the Irish College, delivered an address, in which he said Ireland was to-day paying to Plunket a debt owed to him for more than two centuries.

After reviewing the life of Plunket, Monsignor O'Riordan spoke of the religious struggle in the United Kingdom. The Irish in the end obtained religious liberty for their brethren in Britain as well as for themselves," he said, "although the struggle lasted until a time within the memory of some who are still living. It involved many sacrifices and the loss of life for Ireland itself it meant martyrdom of the nation."

Oliver Plunket was put to death on the charge of treason in 1681. He was born in 1629, in Meath County, Ireland, was educated for the priesthood and from 1657 to 1669 was Professor of Theology at the College of the Propaganda in Rome. Pope Clement IX appointed him to the Archbishopric of Armagh and Primacy of Ireland in 1669.

In connection with the repressive measures of the English against Roman Catholics, following the adoption of the Test Act, Plunket in 1675 was imprisoned. Accused of complicity in the Irish branch of the "Popish Plot," he was taken to London, and in 1681 tried on the charge of having conspired to bring a French army to Ireland. Accounts of the trial by English historians say that the evidence against him was flimsy, but he was convicted and was hanged, drawn and quartered.

Germany to Sell American Holdings As Retaliation

Gives Warning She Will Take Measures Against U. S. Property There

LONDON, March 18.—The Spanish and Swiss ambassadors at Berlin have been directed by the German Foreign Office to notify the American governments that Germany will protect with measures against American property in Germany in the same proportion that action is taken against German property in the United States, later's Amsterdam correspondent reports.

Hitherto, it is stated in the Berlin advices announcing this action, the German government has restricted itself to measures "absolutely necessary" to prevent enemy property in Germany being taken out of Germany during the war and thereby possibly benefiting Germany's enemies.

Teuton Property Here Is 100 Times That of Americans in Germany

WASHINGTON, March 18.—Principal American holdings in Germany at present are said to be properties of the International Harvester Company, the National Cash Register Company, and the American Radiator Company. The best information available here is that holdings of the Standard Oil Company have gradually been reduced until they are not nearly so extensive now as they were before the war.

There are large investments of American life insurance companies in Germany, but as these are merely for the security of German policy holders in these companies it is not thought they will be molested.

Under the German law all American property may be taken. It is to meet this situation that A. Mitchell Palmer, United States attorney general, has asked Congress to authorize him to take and sell the holdings of great German interests in America. One of the moving reasons for this request is to break up the holdings of the great concerns which have served as outposts of Kultur in the United States and as adjuncts of the German government's military departments.

In these properties it is understood the Kaiser himself, many of the leading Junkers and former Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg are largely interested.

The taking of American property in Germany, it is pointed out here, can have little practical effect because the balance is so overwhelmingly in favor of the United States. Conservative estimates say there is one hundred times as much German property in the United States as there is American property in Germany.

CHICAGO, March 18.—W. H. Hill, vice-president and treasurer of the American Radiator Company, to-night said that the company had two plants in Germany, valued at about \$1,000,000. The German government placed a custodian in charge of each about a year ago, he said.

Sixteen hundred men were employed in the plants before the war, according to Mr. Hill. One plant is at Nuremberg, Dusseldorf, and the other at Schenck.

The International Harvester corporation has a large factory at Neuss, covering about thirty acres, officials said, and has selling agencies in eight German cities. No recent reports have been received concerning any of them.

Singer Sewing Machine Co. Menaced by German Stand

One important American concern affected by the German threat to seize American property in Germany is the Singer Sewing Machine Company, which prior to the war operated a large factory at Wittenberg, Prussia, through a subsidiary organization capitalized at 15,000 marks. The factory employed 2,000 hands.

"If the Germans seize American property in Germany," said Douglas Alexander, president of the Singer company, here to-day, "there is nothing for us to do but wait until the end of the war for a settlement. I understand the value of German property in the United States is much in excess of American property in Germany, so the balance in property seized is in our favor. But that will, of course, be adjusted in the peace settlement."

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Are Now Featuring on the Sixth Floor

English Trench Coats for Officers at \$57

These are the same style Trench coats that go over the top with Britishers in Flanders. The very coats that have proved their worth to British officers in the thick of the fight in France.

Imported direct from London. Made of showerproof Gabardine, lined with oiled silk and fitted with detachable fleece lining. For the Spring, the Fall, the Winter—this is the coat to beat both the weather and the Hun in France.



Saks & Company

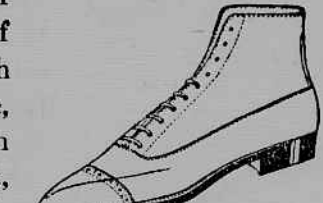
Broadway at 34th Street

Announce a Very Special

Sale of Men's Shoes at \$5.45

A splendid lot of shoes in a variety of new Spring lasts, with medium or round toe, skilfully developed in Dark Cord Russet, Gun Metal, Vici Kid, and Patent Leather.

At \$5.45 these shoes are the best value in town to-day



Singer Sewing Machine Co. Oldest Landsturm Levis Of Austria to Demobilize

AMSTERDAM, March 17.—A Vienna dispatch to the "Vossische Zeitung," of Berlin, says demobilization of three of the oldest landsturm levies serving with the Austrian forces, consisting of men born in 1867, 1868 and 1869, will begin immediately, and will be completed by May, October and December, respectively.

Men's Ready-for-Service Clothes are now divided into two kinds—those hand-tailored by Franklin Simon and those made by Sewing Machines.

Men's Suits \$25 to \$55—Overcoats \$25 to \$45

Men's Clothing Shop—8 West Thirty-eighth Street, A Separate Shop on the Street Level

Franklin Simon & Co.

FIFTH AVENUE